

WILD DOGS — STATE BARRIER FENCE

228. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the proposal to extend the state barrier fence by 660 kilometres to protect Esperance livestock from wild dogs.

- (1) Does the minister agree that further on-the-ground action is required to comprehensively deal with wild dogs?
- (2) If yes to (1), what would further on-the-ground action entail; and, if no to (1), why not?
- (3) Is the minister aware of the success of the 2014 wild dog bounty trial in Western Australia in which 505 bounties were collected in a relatively short time?
- (4) Do any possible environmental impacts of the state barrier fence extension outweigh the damage caused by wild dogs, emus and kangaroos in the Esperance region?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1) Yes. Best practice wild dog control uses integrated control methods on a landscape scale.
- (2) A predator and pest control management plan has been developed as part of the Environmental Protection Authority's assessment process of the state barrier fence Esperance extension proposal. This document outlines the management measures to be implemented if the proposal progresses.
- (3) This question was asked by the honourable member on 15 June 2017. I am aware of the trial. In the past, especially the recent past, the government has trialled wild dog bounties. Independent evaluation of bounties found that they were an inefficient use of wild dog control funds. I am happy to provide a copy of that evaluation to the member and to consider any alternative interpretation of the evidence that the member might have.
- (4) The proposed Esperance extension fence alignment was determined following detailed assessment and mapping of environmental and cultural values. This has included extensive environmental and cultural heritage surveys undertaken in accordance with the relevant commonwealth and state policy, and legislation. The Environmental Protection Authority is currently assessing the potential environmental impacts of the proposal. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development does not consider the project will have any significant environmental impacts and will address any issues raised by the EPA as appropriate.